

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There has been no dereservation of any item after February'99;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) A comprehensive new policy on the small scale sector is under finalisation.

#### Stiff Competition for SSI

2768. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries would face stiff global competition from April 1, 2001 as quantitative restrictions on all imports disappear; and

(b) if so, Government's support proposed to ensure that small sector survives successfully by adopting modern management practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. But then the Small Scale Industries in India have enough resilience to withstand the impact of phasing out of Quantitative Restrictions beyond April 2001, as is evident from their recent track record. The Government has put in place several measures to help our small enterprises become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitisation of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.